

Amendment After Allowance under 37 CFR 1.312

Date filed **September 15, 2006**

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/735,886**

REMARKS

This is an Amendment after Notice of Allowance.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended herein.

Applicants and Applicants' attorney thank Examiner Parekh for the interviews courteously granted in June 2006. The special attention the Examiner paid to the instant application is noted with appreciation. Items discussed during the interviews include: a possible clarification of language in claim 1 relating to the terms "trench" and "hole"; and a possible clarification of language in claim 18 relating to the terms "trench" and "hole." No art references were discussed.

As a result of the interviews, the Examiner and Applicants' attorney agreed to the following four changes:

- (i) Claim 1, line 4: Delete "trench" and insert therefore --hole--;
- (ii) Claim 1, line 9: Insert --and said hole-- between "via-hole" and "so";
- (iii) Claim 18, line 7: Delete "trench" and insert therefore --hole--;
- (iv) Claim 18, line 12: Insert --and said hole-- between "via-hole" and "so";

Amendment After Allowance under 37 CFR 1.312

Date filed **September 15, 2006**

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/735,886**

Two of the four changes were implemented correctly by the Examiner's Amendment mailed July 3, 2006: **(i)** and **(iii)**.

However, the other two changes were **not** implemented correctly by the Examiner's Amendment mailed July 3, 2006.

In particular, regarding the change labeled as **(ii)** above, the Examiner's Amendment did not insert the word --and-- in claim 1 at line 9. Also, regarding the change labeled as **(iv)** above, the Examiner's Amendment did not insert the word --and-- in claim 18, line 12.

Accordingly, this Amendment is being filed in order to cause claims 1 and 18 to have the language that was agreed upon during the interviews with the Examiner in June 2006.

On **July 3, 2006**, a Notice of Allowance was mailed for the above-captioned patent application. The claims have been amended in order to correct informalities therein.

It is the Applicants' position that the amendments to the claims are mere corrections of formal matter in the claims.

Amendment After Allowance under 37 CFR 1.312

Date filed **September 15, 2006**

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/735,886**

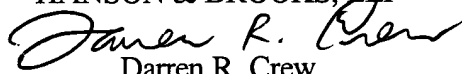
Furthermore, it is the applicants position that such amendments to the claims: (1) are needed for proper disclosure or protection of the applicants invention, and (2) require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent Office.

If for any reason, the Examiner has any questions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for a telephone conference in order to help expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required now or in the future with respect to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Darren R. Crew

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 37,806

DRC/llf

Atty. Docket No. **031325**

Suite 1000

1725 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE